

CLAIMS

1. A method of defining qualities for a digital image signal encoded beforehand, characterized in that it consists of defining a predetermined number of quality modes each corresponding to at least one decoding parameter of the digital signal, this definition being made on the basis of rate information provided via a graphical interface and perception quality information provided via the visualization of the decoded digital signal, wherein all the quality modes defined and only the quality modes defined are made accessible to a final user.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it consists of defining three quality modes, including a so-called "low" quality mode, a so-called "normal" quality mode and a so-called "high" quality mode.
3. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that a predetermined number of quality layers is associated with each quality mode.
4. A method according to the preceding claim, characterized in that said decoding parameter is said number of quality layers.
5. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that each quality mode corresponds to the decoding of a predetermined quantity of data representing the digital signal.
6. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a step consisting of storing said decoding parameters in a file to be transmitted to a final user to deduce therefrom, according to the quality mode chosen by the user, the corresponding decoding parameter.
7. A method according to the preceding claim, characterized in that said file is in SWF format.
8. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that it comprises an initializing step consisting of determining default values of the number of quality layers to be associated with each quality mode, corresponding to mutually different quantities of data representing the digital signal.
9. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that the rate information is represented in the form of a graph illustrating the size of the

image represented by said digital signal as a function of the number of quality layers.

10. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that said predetermined number of quality layers is represented in the form of a cursor
5 simultaneously with the visualization of the decoded digital signal.

11. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the digital signal is a signal representing an image encoded according to the JPEG2000 standard.

12. A device for defining qualities for a digital image signal encoded
10 beforehand, characterized in that it comprises means for defining a predetermined number of quality modes each corresponding to at least one decoding parameter of the digital signal, this definition being made on the basis of rate information provided via a graphical interface and perception quality information provided via the visualization of the decoded digital signal, wherein
15 all the quality modes defined and only the quality modes defined are made accessible to a final user.

13. A device according to claim 12, characterized in that it consists of defining three quality modes, including a so-called "low" quality mode, a so-called "normal" quality mode and a so-called "high" quality mode.

20 14. A device according to claim 12, characterized in that a predetermined number of quality layers is associated with each quality mode.

15. A device according to the preceding claim, characterized in that said decoding parameter is said number of quality layers.

25 16. A device according to claim 12, characterized in that each quality mode corresponds to the decoding of a predetermined quantity of data representing the digital signal.

17. A device according to claim 12, characterized in that it comprises means for storing said decoding parameters in a file to be transmitted to a final user to deduce therefrom, according to the quality mode chosen by the user,
30 the corresponding decoding parameter.

18. A device according to the preceding claim, characterized in that said file is in SWF format.

19. A device according to claim 14, characterized in that it comprises initializing means for determining default values of the number of quality layers to be associated with each quality mode, corresponding to mutually different quantities of data representing the digital signal.

5 20. A device according to claim 14, characterized in that the rate information is represented in the form of a graph illustrating the size of the image represented by said digital signal as a function of the number of quality layers.

10 21. A device according to claim 14, characterized in that said predetermined number of quality layers is represented in the form of a cursor simultaneously with the visualization of the decoded digital signal.

 22. A device according to claim 12, characterized in that the digital signal is a signal representing an image encoded according to the JPEG2000 standard.

15 23. A communication apparatus, characterized in that it comprises a device according to claim 12.